SUBJECTS.

requested that orders might be issued to the Courts for using Roman Catholic Bibles in swearing Roman Catholics.

Dewan's reply.—There is no objection to this being done.

[*Note*—It was ascertained that every criminal court is now supplied with a Roman Catholic Bible.]

9. Abolition of tax in kind.

Mr. Paul Daniel (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) said that the present system of levying part of the land tax in kind was very inconvenient to the ryot and gave much scope for unjust exaction on the part of the tax collector. The Government too, he said, did not seem to gain much, for they kept a large and expensive establishment for the purpose of collecting the tax, spent a large sum of money for taking the paddy from the chief stores to the several religious and charitable institutions and also incurred loss on account of the deterioration of the paddy stored in granaries, wastage, and other causes. He requested that the whole of the tax in kind might be converted into money or, if that could not be done, at least three-fourths of the tax might be levied in coin and one-fourth in kind so far as Nanjenaad was concerned. This, he said, would make taxation in Nanjenaad about equal to that in North Travancore.

Dewan's reply.—As stated in my address the subject is under the consideration of Government and you will have an early solution of this long-pending question.

10. Uniformity in weights and measures.

Mr. S. Swamy Aiyengar (Member, Merchants of Trivandrum) said that the weights and measures in use varied in different parts of the country and it was urgently necessary to adopt a common standard. He requested that the weights and measures to be used by the people might be stamped by the Government.

Mr. Paul Daniel (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) supported the request.

Dewan's reply.—A Weights and Measures Bill is before the Legislative Council and every endeavour will be made to pass a law on the subject.

11. Timely inspection of fields on failure of crops.

Mr. N. Velayudhaperumal Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) requested that, in cases of failure of crops, the officers concerned might be ordered to inspect the fields in time for the ryots to begin their agricultural operations for the next crop. He explained that the want of such timely inspection put the ryots to loss and inconvenience, as they could not begin work for the following season until the inspection was over.

Dewan's reply.—Orders will issue for the timely inspection of crops by the village officers.

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